

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an authorized email communication with Jason Foster on 6-11-2008 (the contents of which is attached). Applicant's authorization for internet communications was included in the response filed 3-21-2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Nonelected claim 26 has been canceled without prejudice.
- Claims 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 have been canceled.

- Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (currently amended) A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers with measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, and (b) fibers of a second type selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic, wherein the measurable amount of said at least one extractable agent is within a range of about 0.02 to less than about 0.1 weight percent, and wherein said at least one extractable agent is an agent used in a process to make fibers and is selected from a group consisting of lubricant and an anti-static agent.

- Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

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24. (currently amended) A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers, and (b) fibers of a second type with about 0.02 to less than about 0.1 weight percent of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, said fibers being selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic, and wherein said at least one extractable agent is an agent used in a process to make fibers and is selected from a group consisting of lubricant and an anti-static agent.

- Specification, page 8, line 19, “[]” has been deleted.
- In the abstract line 7, after “modacrylic.” the following sentence has been added. —At least one type of fibers includes an extractable agent on the outer surfaces thereof.—

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

- In the internet communication of 6-11-2008, the Examiner presented a proposal for allowance that canceled claim 26, and also incorporated the subject matter of new claims 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 into the independent claims; the scope of the term “extractables” was narrowed to those used in a process to make a fiber selected from one of lubricant and an anti-static agent; and the range of weight percent of the extractables was narrowed to be about 0.02 to about 0.1. The aforementioned attorney accepted the proposal.
- The closest cited art—Brown ‘850—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the aforementioned limitations in the filter material fiber blends of

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claims 2 and 24. Brown teaches no extractables. Wnenchak also fails to teach extractables in the claimed range (see the applicant's arguments of 1(a) in the response of 3-21-2008).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Terry K. Cecil whose telephone number is (571) 272-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a-4:30p M-F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mr. Terry K. Cecil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

TKC